



Increasing BOD₅/COD ratio of non-biodegradable compound (reactive black 5) with ozone and catalase enzyme combination

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Abstract

The effect of ozone and ozone plus a biological catalyst (catalase) on the degradation processes of Reactive Black 5 was investigated. The ozonation process was carried out in a laboratory-scale batch reactor with a volume of 500 ml. Chemical oxygen demand (COD), pH, color removal and the BOD₅/COD ratio were measured during the process. At the first stage, only ozonation was performed, at the second stage, ozonation plus NaCl and Na₂CO₃, and at the third stage, ozonation plus catalase enzyme were used. As a result of the oxidation of Reactive Black 5 with only ozone and ozone plus textile auxiliaries, chemical oxygen demand (COD) removal was 34% and 19%, respectively. COD removal efficiency was 43% when 10 ml of catalase was added to the ozone reactor. Carbonate and salt have a negative effect on the oxidation of reactive Black 5 with ozone. Reactive Black 5 was degraded into sub-components, and the biodegradability of the wastewater increased. The pH value decreased from 3.3 down to 1.6, which showed that organic acids were formed as a result of degradation. The use of enzymes in combination with ozonation shows that Reactive Black 5 can rapidly convert into the intermediate within the 270-min ozonation time (BOD₅/COD = 0.46). COD removal was not as high as color removal efficiency. This may have resulted from the formation of colorless oxidation products. The significant increase in biodegradability after ozonation in the presence of the catalyst may also be seen as a reduction of toxic intermediates.

Keywords Ozone · Catalase enzyme · Reactive black 5 · BOD₅/COD · Color removal

1 Introduction

In the textile industry, wastewater is generally released from dyeing processes and preparation steps. The wastewater produced (about 100,000 synthetic dyes) contains variable components such as strong color, turbidity and inorganic salts [3]. Chemical oxidation is a capable method to easily convert contaminants into biodegradable compounds. However, biodegradable compounds that are not chemically oxidized may slow down the purification process [30]. Ozone is increasingly being used to remove low-biodegradability compounds. There have not been enough studies to determine the biodegradability of intermediates formed during ozone treatment. Textile wastewaters are wastewaters that are colored and biologically

difficult to degrade which have various compositions of colorful dyes, surfactants and toxic chemicals [22]. Reactive azo dyes are characterized by the presence of one or more azo bonds (–N=N–) in relation to one or more aromatic systems [24]. In some studies, the UV/Vis spectroscopy method was used in the determination of the intermediate and final products formed at the end of the reaction [21].

Most ozone processes are performed in batch or semi-batch bubble columns [15]. The process of ozonation follows two different paths based on the pH. In acidic conditions, ozone directly reacts with organic compounds as an electrophile. As a result, aldehydes, carboxylic acids and other by-products are formed [4]. At alkaline pH, ozone disintegrates rapidly to form hydroxyl radicals and other

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radical species. In dyes, ozone usually attacks the conjugated double bonds that are a part of chromophores [1, 13, 16, 31]. In general, ozone oxidation involves direct ozone oxidation or free radical reaction. Since the oxidation potential of hydroxyl radicals is much higher than that of ozone molecules, direct oxidation is slower than radical oxidation [6].

As a result of the process of ozonation, the dye composition is broken up into aromatic amines (NH_2), and organic acids are formed as a result of increased reaction time. By ozonation, the amines in the composition of the dye (NH_2) are converted into nitrate. Sulfonic groups are turned into sulfate [35]. It has been shown in the literature that biodegradation of wastewater may be maximized with pretreatment doses in the range of 0.23–1.04 mg O_3 /mgCOD [2].

Some researchers have recommended the use of microbial enzymes (peroxidases, laccases and azo reductase) in decolorization [12, 20, 26]. Intermediate products resulting from removal of some dyes may be more toxic. As a result of color removal of Reactive Blue 19 and Reactive Black dye, *D. Magna* (16 toxicity factor) and *V. Fischeri* (32 toxicity factor) bacteria have the highest toxicity [5]. Catalase is an enzyme that catalyzes decomposition of hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water, and it is present in all aerobic cells [32]. The catalase enzyme has been used as an important enzyme in many biotechnological fields including bioremediation. The pH range suitable for the catalase enzyme is from 4 to 11 [14].

The aim of this study was to evaluate the change in biodegradability of low BOD_5 /COD containing dye and determine the relationship between biodegradability, color change and final mineralization. The biodegradability of the ozonated Reactive black 5 dye was monitored by increases in the biological oxygen (BOD_5) and BOD_5 /COD ratios.

2 Material and method

In order to investigate the effects of ozone and enzyme on COD and color removal from wastewater, Reactive Black 5 (non-biodegradable) was selected as the model compound. A schematic diagram of the laboratory-scale reactor is shown in Fig. 1. The experiments were conducted by putting 400 ml of samples into a glass reactor which is known as a 500 ml ozone gas washing bottle. In the experimental setup, there were 3 other gas washing bottles next to the reactor (Fig. 1). The bottle numbered 1 in Fig. 1 was the reactor where the dye solution was contained as the wastewater specimen, while the bottles numbered 2, 3 and 4 were gas washing bottles that were serially connected to the reactor with the purpose of catching the

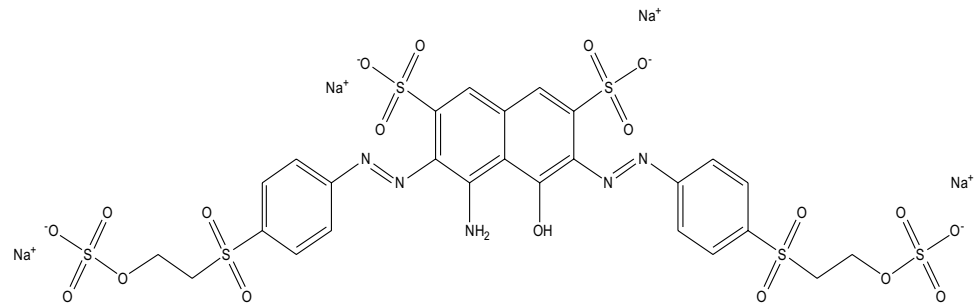


Fig. 1 The laboratory-scale experimental setup

unreacted ozone and contained a 2% KI (potassium iodide) solution. Reactive Black 5 ($\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{Na}_4\text{O}_9\text{S}_6$; Molecular weight: 991.82 g/mol, CAS number 17095-24-8) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Turkey). The chemical structure of Reactive Black 5 is shown in Fig. 2. The other chemicals (KI, H_2SO_4 , NaCl, Na_2CO_3) that were used in the experiments were also purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Turkey). The Catalase enzyme was obtained from DyStar (CAS number 9001-05-2, 1–5%, 1.15–1.19 g/cm³, pH:5.1–5.4 EC: 45372010).

Ozone (2 g/h) was produced from the air by a laboratory scale ozone generator Triogen Model (Degremont Technologies). Ozone production, its homogenous distribution in water and facilitation of diffusional transition in the wastewater were supported by a KNF (D-79112) air compressor. All experiments were carried out at room temperature (19 ± 1 °C). The flow gauge of the ozone generator was set at 10 L/min. The ozone experiments were carried out at a dye concentration of 0.5 g/L and a reaction time of 4.5 h. The COD equivalent of 0.5 g/L of the dye solution was 417 mg/L. In the other experiments, auxiliary chemicals (NaCl and Na_2CO_3) and the catalase enzyme were used with ozone. In parallel with the textile sector, COD and color removal efficiency were investigated by ozonation. The absorbance values were converted to indices of transparency (RES) values. Color measurements were made by using the RES method at 3 different wavelengths (436 nm, 525 nm and 620 nm) [8].

In the first series of experiments, only the dye solution was used. No intervention was made on the pH value of the solution throughout the ozonation process. In the second set of experiments, with the purpose of obtaining the prototype of the dye bath, 10 g/L sodium chloride (NaCl) and 10 g/L sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3) were added to the 0.5 g/L Reactive Black 5 solution. The pH was above 9 due

Fig. 2 The chemical structure of Reactive Black 5

to the alkalinity (Na_2CO_3) of the medium. In third series of experiments, ozonation was performed by adding 1.0- and 10.0-ml catalase enzyme to the number one bottle (reactor), respectively. Ozone and enzyme experiments were performed at $\text{pH}=6-7$. The COD, BOD_5 and color changes were observed by the ozone oxidation process.

The samples were collected in 15, 45, 60, 90, 120, 150, 180, 210, 240 and 270 min, respectively. No centrifugation or filtration process was applied in the color measurements of the samples. The color measurements were made by using the RES method at 3 different wavelengths [8]. The COD and BOD_5 measurements were made in compliance with the Standard Methods [27]. Five-day oxygen consumption by microorganisms is called BOD_5 . COD represents the amount of oxygen required to completely convert organic matter into final products. The BOD_5/COD ratio is a measure of the biodegradability of organic matter. The pH was adjusted with H_2SO_4 and NaOH by using a WTW340 pH meter. The residual concentration of Reactive Black 5 was measured by using a Hach Lange DR2800 spectrophotometer. The absorbance values of the samples at 436 nm, 525 nm and 620 nm wavelengths were measured by the multiple absorbance method selected in the spectrophotometer. RES values were calculated with the formula given in Eq. (1). Color removal efficiency [$E = \text{RES}_0 - \text{RES}_t / \text{RES}_0$] was calculated from the influent (RES_0) and effluent RES_t values.

$$\text{RES}(\lambda) = \frac{A}{d} \times f \quad (1)$$

A: Absorbance of water sample at λ wavelength, d: Bath-tub thickness (25.4 mm), f: Factor for obtaining Spectral Absorption in m^{-1} , $f=1000$, $\text{RES}(\lambda)$: Spectral absorption coefficient (m^{-1}).

3 Results and discussion

Color removal efficiencies (Figs. 3, 4 and 5) were calculated from the absorbance and RES values (not shown) at all three wavelengths (436 nm, 525 nm, 620 nm) depending on the ozonation time. The Reactive Black 5 molecule

was oxidized by ozonation to a small organic molecular structure, based on high color removal efficiency and partial COD removal efficiency. In this study, organic matter was not defined depending on wavelengths. The final product conversion was defined based on the amount of organic matter (COD removal) removed from the medium. The reduction in chemical oxygen demand (417 to 285) showed a partial oxidation. As shown in Fig. 6, the COD removal efficiency obtained by ozonation of the Reactive Black 5 for 240 min was 32%. At the end of the reaction, the influent COD decreased from 417 to 285 mg/L. Additionally, Fig. 6 shows the effects of ozonation on biodegradability (BOD_5/COD) and pH. With the ozone, the biodegradability (BOD_5/COD) of the dye increased from 0.06 to 0.41. When this ratio is in the range 0.40–0.5, the wastewater can be biodegradable [18]. After four and a half hours of ozonation, the dye turns into intermediate products, which constitutes an important COD. As previously determined by several researchers, it was found that this increase (BOD_5/COD) was caused by new organic substances (acetic acid, aldehydes, ketones) that could not be completely degraded as a result of the reaction of azo dyes with ozone [7, 9, 34]. Many researchers determined that the decreases in the pH values were caused by the outcome that the by-products that are released after ozonation were in the form of acid anions [19, 28, 36]. Nitrogen, carbon and oxygen and sulfur are present in the structure of the paint (Fig. 2). COD reduction ($417-285=132$ mg) proved that the final product was formed.

Without interfering with the pH of the solution, the initial $\text{pH}:3.3$ was reduced to 1.7 with the ozonation time. In a study conducted by Perez et al. [21] pH decreased due to the formation of organic acid as a result of oxidation (Ozone) of wastewater containing Reactive Black 5. In the light of all these results, it was determined that Reactive Black 5 was converted into by-products as a result of degradation by ozone, and its biodegradability increased. Considering the color removal value ($>95\%$) and BOD_5/COD ratios (increase from 0.06 to 0.41) at low pH, it may be concluded that the $\text{C}=\text{C}$ and $\text{N}=\text{N}$ bonds in the structure of the dye were severed as a result of ozonation, and organic substances with fewer chains were formed. The COD

Fig. 3 Color (Reactive Black 5) Removal Efficiency with ozonation time

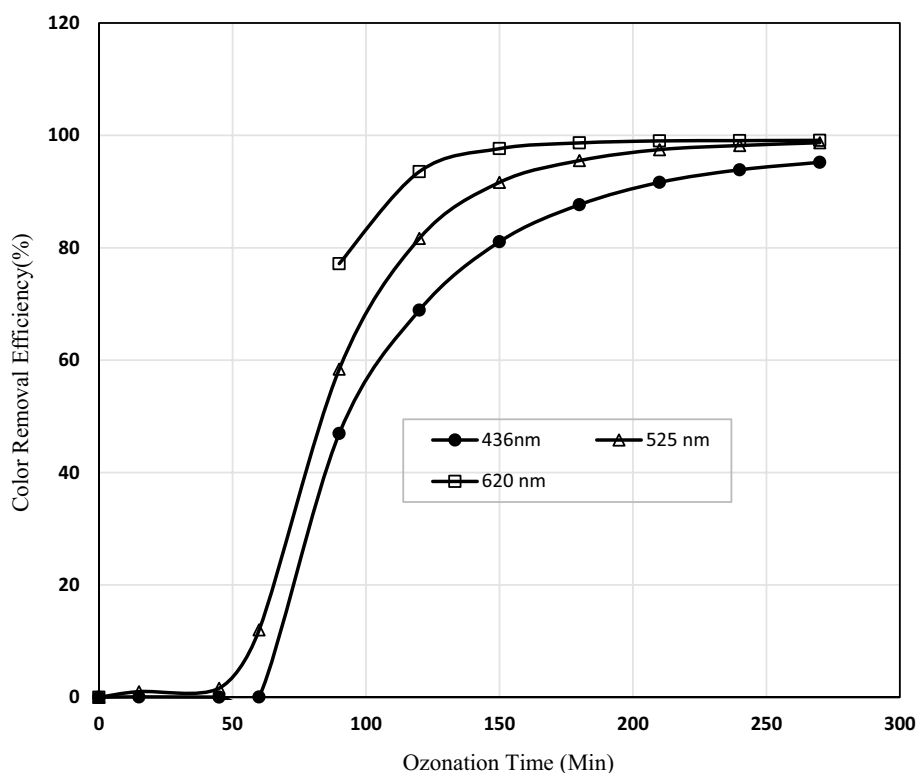
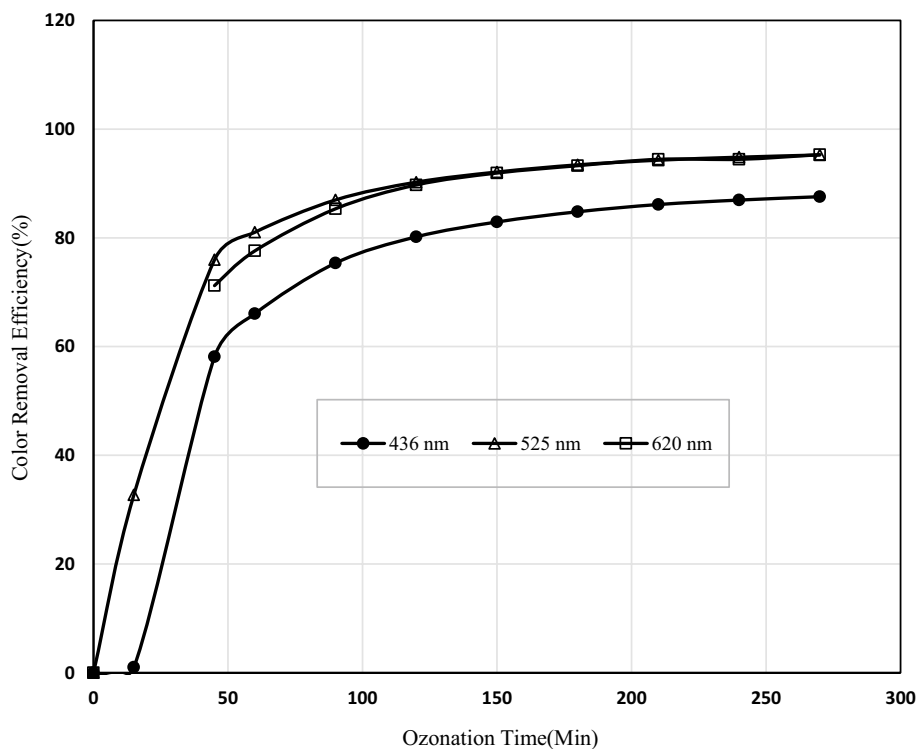


Fig. 4 Color (Reactive Black 5) Removal Efficiency with ozonation time (10 g/L NaCl and 10 g/L NaHCO₃)



concentration could not be further reduced by the formation of organic compounds which were not degraded by ozonation. Reactive Black 5 was first converted into some carboxylic acid intermediates. The main intermediates in

the degradation of Reactive Black 5 are formic acid and oxalic acid. Oxidation of oxalic acid is much more difficult in comparison to other organic acids [10]. The highest increase in the BOD₅/COD ratio occurred after 150 min. The

Fig. 5 Color (Reactive Black 5) Removal Efficiency with ozone time and Enzyme (10 ml Catalase Enzyme)

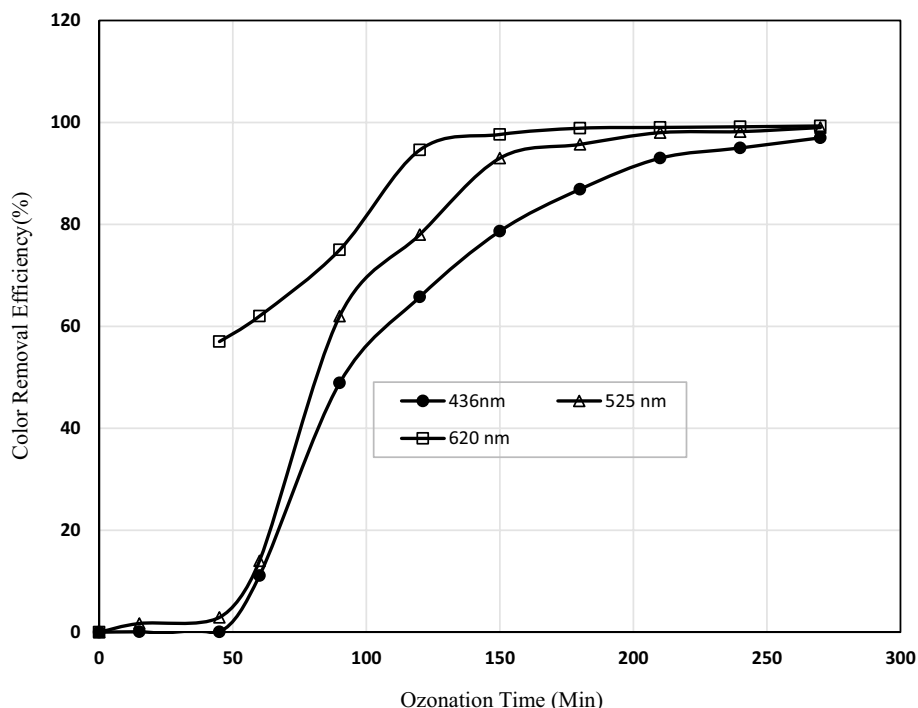
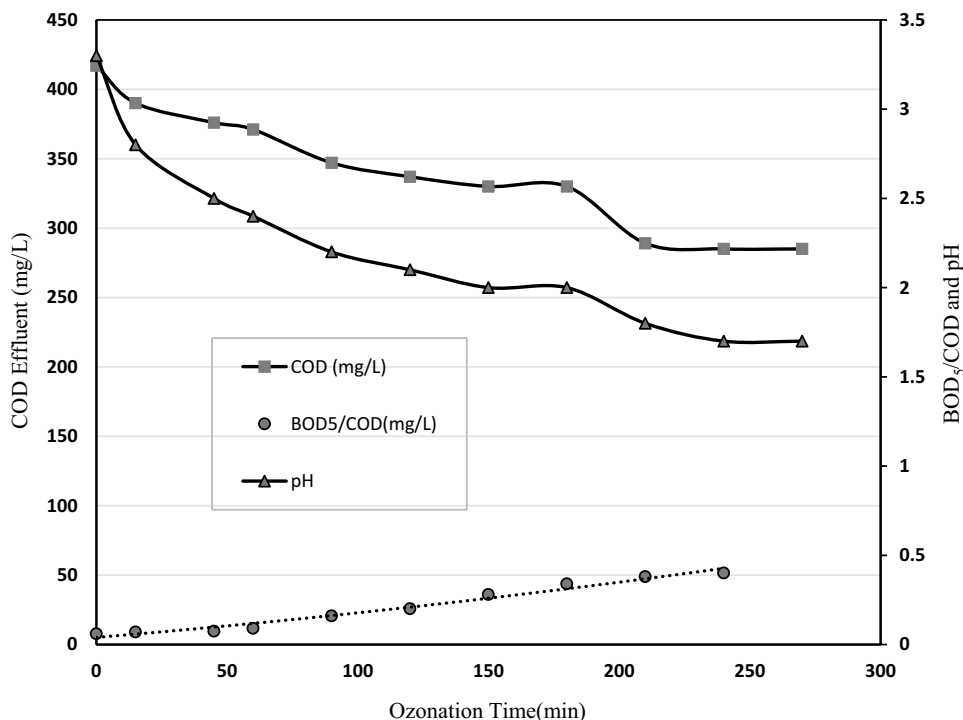


Fig. 6 COD, BOD₅/COD and pH change depending on the ozonation time of Reactive Black 5



BOD₅/COD ratio was 0.2, 0.28, 0.34, 0.38 and 0.40 after 120, 150, 180, 210 and 240 min, respectively. After 240 min, the Reactive Black 5 was transformed from a non-degradable form into degradable products. The compounds formed by ozone oxidation are simpler in structure, and most are organic acids [21]. Similar results were reported by

Suryawan et al. (2018) by using ozone oxidation in treating Reactive Black 5 [29].

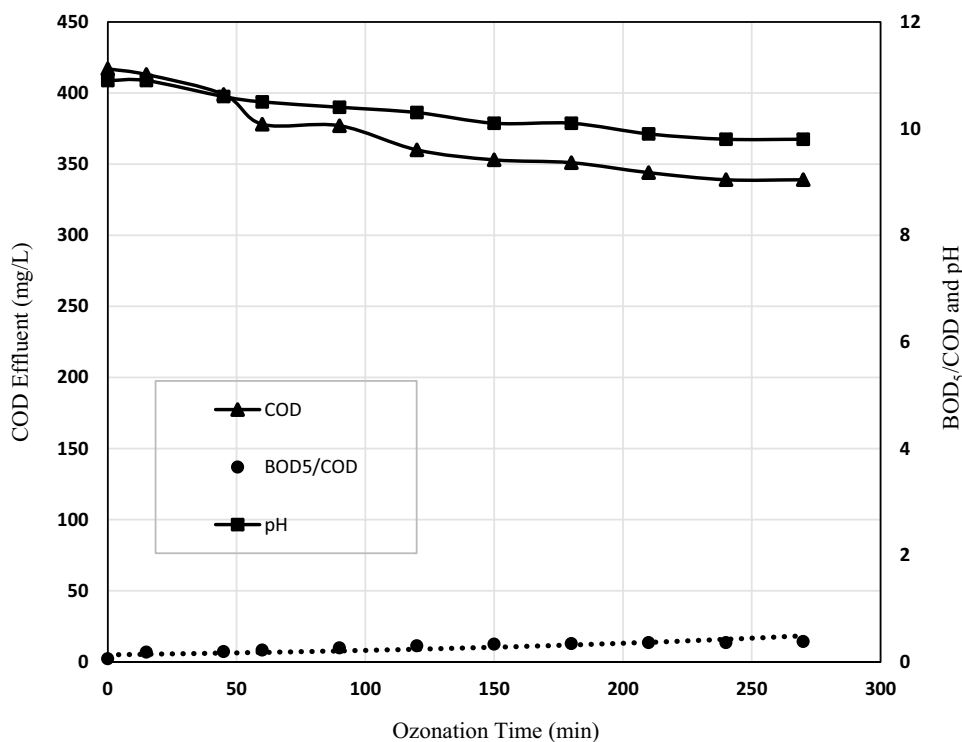
The reduction in color with increasing ozone dosage is shown for Reactive Black 5 in Fig. 3. Reduction in absorbance and RES values (data not shown) at low and high wavelengths (RES 436, RES 525, RES 620) showed

discoloration by cleavage of dye chromophores. Disruption of the parent compound aromatic rings was associated with reduced absorbance at UV wavelengths [2]. It was found that increasing ozone dose was associated with an increase in color removal. Color changes were low at ozonation times of 15, 45 and 60 min. At short ozonation times, color remains due to the complexity of the intermediates and the nature of the dye. The BOD₅/COD measurements that were made in parallel to the color change showed that the BOD₅ value also increased. In parallel to the findings in the literature [37], the decrease in the pH in this study at the end of the reaction time was caused by the formation of organic acids as a result of degradation of complex organic compounds by ozone. Simpler intermediate products are formed in ozone reactions [21]. Most intermediate products obtained as a result of ozonation in the study conducted by Perez et al. [21] were composed of organic acids and less toxic substances. At all wavelengths, color removal efficiency was over 80% at the end of 150 min of ozonation. The BOD₅/COD ratio within the same time interval was found as 0.28. The color removal efficiencies of Reactive Black 5 at the end of ozonation for 4.5 h were 95.21, 99.17 and 99.13% in RES-436 (Yellow), RES-525 (Red) and RES-620 (Blue), respectively. The color removal was higher starting with the 90th min. Although decolorization was sufficient with only ozonation, COD removal efficiency was limited. Ozone first reacts with the chromophore group of dyes. Therefore, color removal was fast [21, 29]. As a result of the ozonation process, the

black dye solution turned into a light orange color. At the beginning of the ozonation process, dye removal efficiencies at the 436 and 525 nm wavelengths were quite low. Low and negative dye removal efficiencies are thought to result from the different absorption rates of intermediate products formed by oxidation of the dye. Association or dissociation of molecules also causes deviation in reading the correct absorbance value. The measurement values are within the limits of ± 5% deviation. The absorption and RES values (not shown in article) of all wavelengths decreased with ozonation time. At the beginning of ozonation at the 620 nm wavelength, the absorption values of the Reactive Black 5 could not be read on the instrument. Deviations in absorbance values were detected in the first minutes of oxidation. It was thought to be caused by the dye intermediate structure rather than instrument sensibility.

Salt and carbonate, which are some of the most commonly used auxiliary chemicals in the textile sector, were included in this study. Figure 7 shows the COD, BOD₅/COD and color changes of the solution containing the dye and additional chemicals depending on the time of ozonation. The ozonation of Reactive Black 5 and auxiliary chemicals provided a limited rate of COD removal. When wastewater pH increases, the ozone stability in the wastewater decreases, and the amount of ozone present in the reaction decreases [23]. When the ozone time was increased to 270 min, the COD removal efficiency was found to be 19%. The ozone time increased the BOD₅/COD ratio of Reactive Black 5. As a result of 60 min of reaction time,

Fig. 7 COD, BOD₅/COD and pH change depending on the ozonation time of Reactive Black 5 (10 g/L NaCl and 10 g/L Na₂CO₃)



the BOD₅/COD ratio was found as 0.22. High color removal and high BOD₅/COD ratio indicated that Reactive Black 5 was converted to a limited extent to oxidation end products (CO₂, H₂O and NO₃⁻). High color removal showed that the chromophores in the dye deteriorated. In this experiment, the COD removal efficiency of 18% indicated that the conversion of the dye into the final products was limited. The change in the BOD₅/COD ratio from 0.056 to 0.38 indicated that this dye was converted into partially degradable substances. The presence of NaCl and Na₂CO₃ in the medium has a negative effect on the oxidation of Reactive Black 5. Ozonation of dyes usually results in COD by separating the dye into simple pieces [25]. In this series of experiments, the pH value was greater than 9.0 due to the alkaline environment (in the presence of carbonate). At alkaline pH, ozone was turned into OH and other radical species by rapidly disintegrating [31]. The mineralization of Reactive Black 5 had a low rate ($E_{\text{COD}} = 19\%$) due to the presence of salts and carbonates. The ozonation time of four and a half hours was not sufficient for the biodegradability of the dye. In the current literature, if the BOD₅/COD ratio was between 0.2 and 0.4, the wastewater was slowly biodegradable [18]. Compared to Figs. 6 and 7, the BOD₅/COD ratio decreased by 5.3% after 240 min of ozonation in the presence of salt and carbonate.

The effect of 10 g/L NaCl and 10 g/L Na₂CO₃ on the ozone reaction rate for decolorization was investigated, and the results are shown in Fig. 4. The time required for decolorization was associated with auxiliary chemicals and enzyme concentration along with ozone concentration. Hydroxyl and other radicals are effective instead of ozone at high pH values [21]. As a result of 45 min of reaction time at the wavelength of 525 nm, there was a 76% color removal rate. Within the same reaction time, the color removal rates at the wavelengths of 436 and 620 nm were 58.13% and 71.12%, respectively. As a result of 90 min of reaction time, it was observed that the pigments that formed the color in the dye were degraded by > 75% and converted into by-products (BOD₅/COD = 0.26). The color removal efficiency values at the wavelengths of RES-436, RES-525 and RES-620 were found as 87.57%, 95.26% and 95.29%, respectively.

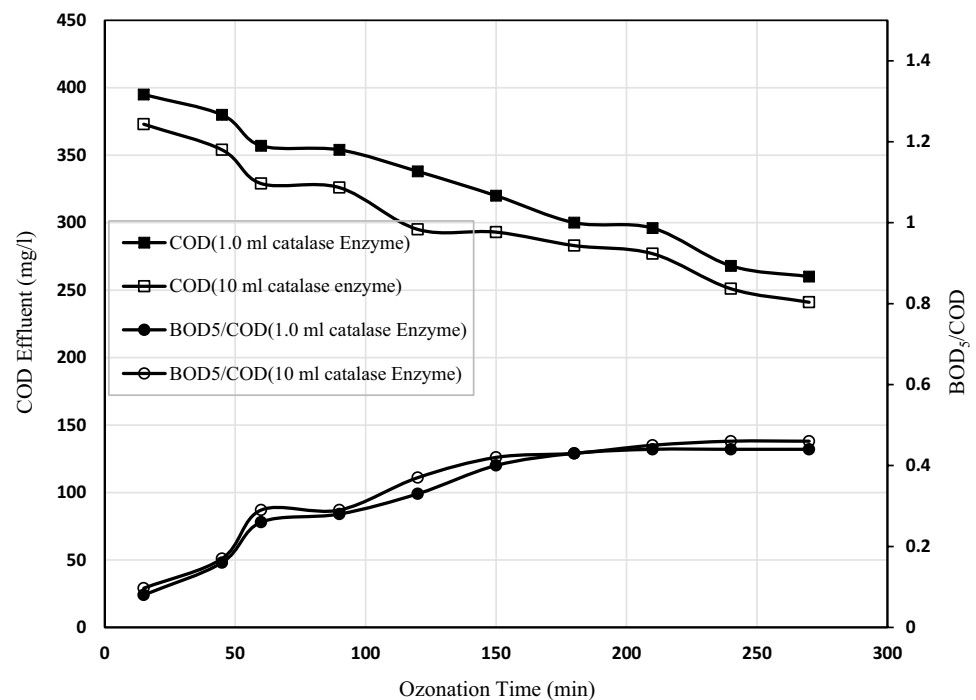
It was determined that the by-products of the reaction were not converted into final products, and therefore, the COD removal efficiency was low (19%). Perez et al. [21] found that, as a result of the reaction between RB5 and ozone, short-chain organic acid was formed as the final product. Due to their refractory characteristics, these dyes are resistant to biodegradation. However, the yield of color decomposition with salt and carbonate was found to be faster and higher than that of ozone alone. The presence of carbonate in the medium delayed the conversion of the dye into final oxidation products. Moreover, some

researchers reported that oxidation processes affected the degradation and removal of dyes negatively in the presence of salts. High concentrations of salt (40 g/L) decrease the solubility of ozone [25]. In the oxidation of dye-containing wastewater with ozone, a high salt concentration decreases color removal, while a lower salt concentration results in faster color removal [17]. The results showed that an increase in BOD₅/COD of the wastewater was in parallel to the color removal. The color of the solution containing the Reactive Black 5 with the ozonation time changed to yellow and orange tones. Orange and yellow color formation occurred at the end of the reaction. Because of the different absorbability values of the intermediate products and variability, it was thought that the color removal efficiency at the beginning of the ozonation process created a negative result.

The catalase enzyme (12, 14, 20) has been used in textile products to reduce the surface roughness. Its use varies depending on the textile product profile. Therefore, the catalase enzyme was selected in this study. Reactive Black 5's ozonation by adding the catalase enzyme in different volumes (1 ml/400 ml and 10 ml/400 ml) was performed in the batch reactor with a constant ozone flow rate of 2 g/h. A constant ozone dose (2 g/h) was used to see the effect of the enzyme (Fig. 8). The COD concentration of Reactive Black 5 may be reduced to a certain degree, and it is very difficult to reduce further COD by only ozonation. Reactive Black 5 contains plain and unsaturated bonds which are separated by ozone plus the catalase enzyme. The oxidation of unsaturated bonds results in a decrease in the effluent COD concentration. When 1.0 and 10.0 ml of catalase were added to the reactor (influent COD = 417 mg/L), the effluent COD value decreased to 260 and 245 mg/L, respectively. When the enzyme concentration increased from 1.0 to 10 ml, the COD removal efficiency increased by 5%. When the enzyme was used as a catalyst, ozonation showed the highest efficiency as it provided more than 95% color removal in 270 min with 41% COD reduction. A combined treatment of dye-contaminated wastewater (ozone/white rot fungi) resulted in a reduction in toxicity by more than 70% [33]. As a result of the combination of ozone oxidation and enzyme processes, it was determined that the ratio of biodegradable material increased, and a high color removal occurred.

The pre-reaction biodegradability of the Reactive Black 5 was very low (0.056), so it was not biodegradable. The biodegradability of Reactive Black 5 was found to be above 0.46 as a result of the enzyme plus ozonation process. As this ratio (BOD₅/COD) is close to 0.5, wastewater can be easily biodegradable [18]. In the study by Alvares et al., the oxidation of Reactive Black 5 with ozone increased the biodegradability of hydrolyzed Reactive Black 5. The optimal dose requirement for the maximum biodegradability

Fig. 8 COD and BOD₅/COD change depending on ozonation time and enzyme concentration of Reactive Black



increase was 1.8 g/l, which increased the BOD/TOC and BOD/COD ratios from 0 to 0.58 and 0.27, respectively [2]. The decrease of the effluent COD and the increase of the effluent BOD₅ at the end of the reaction indicated that the dye was degraded to lower molecular weight compounds and final products. There was no significant difference in COD and color removal in the 1.0 ml and 10.0 ml enzyme applications. Biodegradability increased when ozone was used in combination with the enzyme. When the enzyme concentration was increased from 1 to 10 ml, a 4.4% increase in the BOD₅/COD ratio was found after 270 min.

Ozonation by itself was not an effective method due to low COD removal and by-product formation. To increase ozone efficiency, adding a catalyst provides increased activity. BOD₅ and discoloration increased because the non-degradable compound was converted into more biodegradable compounds after treatment with ozone plus enzyme. Increasing the BOD₅/COD ratio of the Reactive Black 5 from 0.06 to 0.46 showed that the intermediate products were transformed into biodegradable products. Similar to this study, enzymes have been used for color removal in the current literature [12, 20, 26]. It was stated by Venkatesh et al. [35] that organic acids are formed as a result of degradation of dyes by ozone. A reaction of Reactive Black 5 and ozone results in formation of short chain organic acids [21]. As shown in Fig. 5, when the ozonation time was increased from 50 to 270 min, the color removal rate increased significantly. The color removal efficiency at the 10 ml enzyme concentration was greater than 95%. Addition of enzyme to the ozone reactor increased the

color removal efficiency and speed. Color removal was fast for the first 150 min, and then, the rate of decolorization was greatly reduced. At all wavelengths, color removal efficiency was over 90% at the end of 200 min of ozonation. At the 50- and 270-min reaction times and at the 620 nm wavelength, decolorization efficiency was 57% and 99.32%, respectively. The efficiencies at the RES-436, RES-525 and RES-620 wavelengths were found as 96.99%, 99.0% and 99.32%, respectively. It was found that the BOD₅/COD ratio of the Reactive Black 5 increased in parallel with color removal. The oxidation of dye molecules with ozone will oxidize the double bonds of the chromophore group [35]. Enzyme use increased color removal efficiency at all wavelengths. As a result of this study, color formations of orange and its tones were realized. Color readings could not be performed during the first 45 min of ozonation at 620 nm. Deviations in absorbance values were detected in the first minutes of oxidation.

4 Conclusion

The biodegradability of the dye examined before and after the ozone treatment was measured by the BOD₅/COD ratio. The oxygen uptake rate, specific oxygen uptake rate and BOD₅/COD ratio parameters were used in the biodegradability experiments. This study showed that ozone and the biological catalyst improved the color removal and biodegradability of Reactive Black 5. Oxidation of Reactive Black 5 with enzyme plus ozone was

more effective in terms of the biodegradability of the Reactive dye. When the ozone plus enzyme was used, the efficiency of COD removal and decolorization were higher than the use of ozone and ozone plus auxiliary chemicals (NaCl and Na₂CO₃). As a result of ozonation of the Reactive Black 5 at low pH, the BOD₅/COD ratio increased from 0.06 to 0.41. This value decreased down to 0.38 in the case that NaCl and Na₂CO₃ were added to the medium. The BOD₅/COD ratio increased to 0.46 when the enzyme was used. A BOD₅/COD ratio of less than 0.3 corresponds to the low biodegradability of organic material in wastewater [11]. The initial BOD/COD value of the dye was close to zero. With the use of ozone and enzyme, this value has increased above 0.4. This indicates that the paint was disintegrating. When 1 ml and 10 ml enzymes were used together with ozone, the BOD₅/COD ratio increased by 13.6% and 17.4%, respectively. Reactive Black 5 has turned into a readily decomposable form after 150 min for enzyme plus ozonation conditions. In the case of ozone alone, after 270 min, it became easily decomposable. The combined use of ozone and the catalase enzyme increased the color removal. As a result, it was concluded that ozonation was an effective process for color removal, but it was not an effective method for removing the whole COD from wastewater. The combination of ozone plus enzyme disrupts the chemical structure of Reactive Black 5. Further purification was needed for the removal of intermediate products that were formed.

Compliance with ethical standard

Conflict of interest The author declares no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

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